

# A Report from the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants Conference of the Parties – May 2017

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# Overview of U.N. Chemicals and Wastes Conventions

- **Basel Convention**—to address management, disposal, and transboundary movement of hazardous waste (entered into force in 1992)
- **Rotterdam Convention**—creates legally binding obligations for Prior Informed Consent Procedure (entered into force in 2004)
- **Stockholm Convention**—legally binding international agreement on persistent organic pollutants (entered into force in 2004; now **181 Parties**—Malta ratified in 2017)

# The Language of the Stockholm Convention

- “Aware of the health concerns...in particular **impacts upon women and children and, through them, upon future generations.**”
- “Conscious of the need for **global action...**”
- “Acknowledging that **precaution underlies the concerns of all the Parties and is embedded within this Convention...**”
- “Determined to **protect human health and the environment...**”
- “Acknowledging that the **Arctic ecosystems and Indigenous communities are particularly at risk...**”





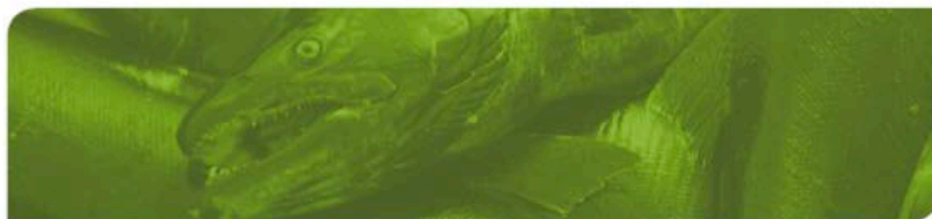


# IPEN Guide to the New POPs

New POPs Advancing:

Global Listing: Deca; SCCPs & HCBD

Next Phase of POPRC Review: PFOA & Dicofol




**IPEN GUIDE  
TO NEW POPs**


April 2017



# Three New Reports! Published by IPEN, ACAT and Arnika






**TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICAL RECOMMENDED FOR GLOBAL PROHIBITION CONTAMINATES CHILDREN'S TOYS**



Pamela Miller  
and  
Joseph DiGangi,  
Ph.D.

April 2017


**POPS RECYCLING CONTAMINATES CHILDREN'S TOYS WITH TOXIC FLAME RETARDANTS**



Joseph DiGangi, Ph.D.  
Jitka Strakova  
Lee Bell

April 2017





**TOXIC ASH POISONS OUR FOOD CHAIN**




Jindrich Petrik  
and Lee Bell,  
IPEN

April 2017







# Vital Role of Indigenous Peoples and NGOs in Stockholm Convention



# Stockholm Convention Milestones

- February 1997—UN Environment Program establishes intergovernmental negotiating committee (INC)
- May 2001—92 countries and EC sign the global legally-binding treaty
- May 2004—the Convention enters into force
- May 2009—Fourth Conference of the Parties (COP4)—nine new chemicals added
- May 2011—Fifth Conference of the Parties (COP5)—endosulfan added for global elimination
- April 2013—Sixth Conference of the Parties (COP6), HBCD added for global elimination
- May 2015—COP7, Pentachlorophenol, HCBD, Chlorinated Naphthalenes (CNs)
- April 24-May 5, 2017—ExCOP/SC COP8
- 181 nations have now ratified—Malta in 2017



# Key Elements of the Stockholm Convention

- Focus is on elimination rather than managing risk
- Ensure addition of new chemicals beyond initial list of twelve
- Identification and inventory of contaminated sites for clean up
- Based on the precautionary principle





# Stockholm Convention—Initial Chemicals

## The “Dirty Dozen”

### ANNEX A—Elimination

- Aldrin—insecticide
- Endrin—insecticide
- Dieldrin—insecticide
- Chlordane—insecticide (particularly termites)
- Heptachlor—insecticide
- HCB—solvent used in pesticides
- Mirex—insecticide
- Toxaphene—insecticide
- PCBs—industrial chemical used in electrical applications

# Stockholm Convention—Initial Chemicals The “Dirty Dozen”

## ANNEX B—Restriction

- **DDT—Production and use for “acceptable purpose” as disease vector control (malaria) and specific exemption as intermediate in dicofol production**
- ***“with the goal of reducing and eventually eliminating the use of DDT...”***



# Stockholm Convention—Initial Chemicals The “Dirty Dozen”

## Annex C—Unintentional Production

*“Parties must take measures to reduce the unintentional releases with the goal of continuing minimization and, where feasible, ultimate elimination.”*

- **Dioxins**
- **Furans**
- **HCB**
- **PCBs**

# The Process for Listing a POP

The POPRC reviews proposals submitted by Parties in accordance with Article 8 in three stages:

- **1) Annex D—Screening**
  - Persistence, Bioaccumulation, Long-range transport, Adverse Effects
- **2) Annex E—Risk Profile—Assessment of Properties**
  - *“lack of full scientific certainty shall not prevent the proposal from proceeding...”*
- **3) Annex F--Prepare Risk Management Evaluation**

Socio-economic considerations and Alternatives
- **Recommend to COP to consider listing**
- **COP makes a decision**



# New POPs—the POPS Review Committee (POPRC)





# “New” POPs Chemicals Added in May 2009

Eight substances listed in Annex A of the Stockholm Convention:

- **Alpha-hexachlorocyclohexane** (Alpha-HCH)—no exemption
- **Beta-hexachlorocyclohexane** (Beta-HCH)—no exemption
- **Chlordecone**—no exemption
- **Hexabromobiphenyl** (HBB)—no exemption
- **Lindane** (Gamma-HCH)—**five-year exemption for treatment of head lice and scabies**
- **Pentachlorobenzene** (PeCB)—no exemption; also listed in Annex C
- **C-Octabromodiphenyl ether** (OctaBDE)—specific components of the commercial mixture were listed, including hexabromodiphenyl ether (HexaBDE) and heptabromodiphenyl ether (HeptaBDE). This listing includes an **exemption allowing for recycling of products containing these substances.**
- **C-Pentabromodiphenyl ether** (PentaBDE)—specific components of the commercial mixture were listed, including tetrabromodiphenyl ether (TetraBDE) and pentabromodiphenyl ether (PentaBDE). This listing includes an **exemption allowing for recycling of products containing these substances.**



# Lindane Production Generates Highly Persistent Alpha- and Beta-HCH Isomers



# Endosulfan—listed in 2011

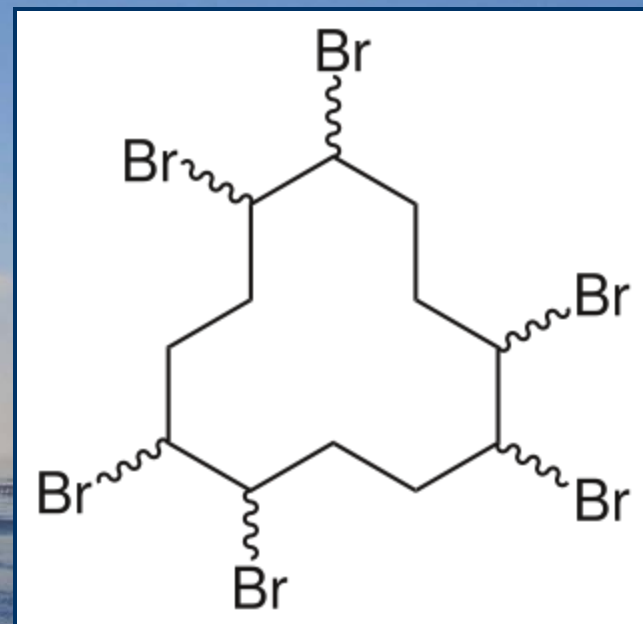
- Insecticide used on cotton, cereals, fruit trees, tobacco, tomatoes, coffee, tea, and other crops
- Most abundant organochlorine pesticide in global air and not decreasing in Arctic air, water, and biota
- Evidence of endocrine disruption, genotoxicity and carcinogenicity
- Linked to **congenital physical disorders**, mental retardation and deaths in **farm workers and villagers** in developing countries in Africa, southern Asia and Latin America.





# HBCD—Listed in 2013

- **HBCD**  
hexabromocyclododecane
- **High production volume additive brominated flame retardant**
- **Main uses are:**
  - **Insulation boards**
  - **Textiles**
  - **Electronic equipment**



# New POPs Listed in 2015

## ■ Chlorinated naphthalenes (CNs)

- No longer intentionally produced or used
- Historical uses included wood preservation, additives to paints and engine oils, capacitors, cable insulation
- Unintentionally produced in combustion and other industrial processes

## ■ Hexachlorobutadiene (HCBD)

- Mainly a by-product of chlorinated solvent manufacturing
- No intentional uses are known
- Historically used as a solvent, transformer fluid, insecticide

## ■ Pentachlorophenol (PCP or “penta”)

- Historically used as biocide, insecticide, fungicide, disinfectant, defoliant, anti-sapstain agent, anti-microbial agent and wood preservative
- Now primarily used as a pesticide for wood preservation, especially utility poles



# Poison Poles

- Significant source of dioxins and furans
- Contaminates soils and groundwater
- Case study—Long Island, NY found levels of PCP up to 250,000 micrograms per kilogram
- Children not protected
- Hazardous waste



**PCP-Treated Utility Pole Next to North Star Elementary School, Anchorage, AK, USA, Photo: April 2015**

# Chemical industry representation for pentachlorophenol



Herbert Estreicher, representing wood preservative industry (Keller and Heckman)

Henry Walheart, Wood Preservation Canada

Kristen Hendricks—former USA EPA now representing wood preservative industry (Keller and Heckman)



# Major Decisions at the Stockholm Convention COP 2015

- Listing of HCBD in Annex A with no exemptions
- Listing of chlorinated naphthalenes in Annexes A and C
- Listing of pentachlorophenol in Annex A with time-limited exemption for treatment of utility poles
- Over 50 decisions from the joint COPs of the Stockholm, Rotterdam, and Basel Conventions (held May 4-16, 2015)

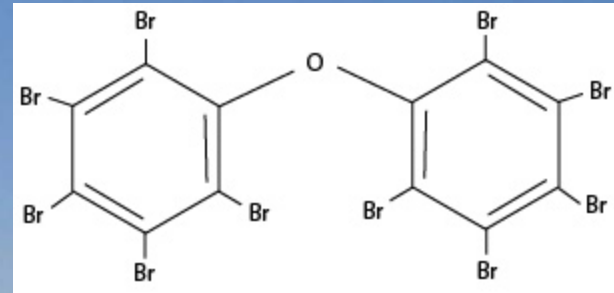
# Decisions on Listing of New POPs COP7—2017

- Listing of **Deca-BDE**—flame retardant used in electronics, textiles, upholstered furniture.
- Listing of **Short-Chained Chlorinated Paraffins (SCCPs)**—used as lubricants and flame retardants
- Listing of **HCBD** in Annex C



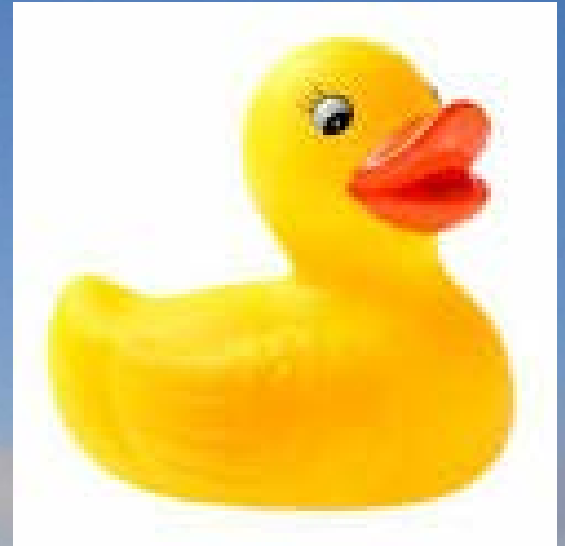
# Decabromodiphenyl Ether (DecaBDE)

- Used as a flame retardant in plastic housings for TVs and computers
- Also in textiles, furniture, mattresses
- Toxic component of e-waste
- One of the most prevalent flame retardants in global environment, including Arctic
- Evidence of harm to reproductive health, development, nervous system



# Short-Chain Chlorinated Paraffins (SCCPs)

- Used as lubricants in metal cutting
- Flame retardant in PVC plastic, rubber
- Plasticizer in paints, adhesives, sealants
- Found in children's toys at high levels
- In Arctic biota, including fish, seabirds, seals, whales, walrus
- In breast milk of Arctic Indigenous women
- Harms the kidney, liver, and disrupts endocrine function
- Suspected to cause cancer





# Short-Chain Chlorinated Paraffins in Toys



TOXIC INDUSTRIAL CHEMICAL  
RECOMMENDED FOR GLOBAL  
PROHIBITION CONTAMINATES  
CHILDREN'S TOYS



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Laboratory analyses of 60 toys and other children's articles from 10 countries (Brazil, Canada, China, Czech Republic, India, Japan, Kenya, Netherlands, Russia, and United States) found levels of SCCPs at concentrations ranging from 8.4 to 19,808 parts per million (ppm).





# IPEN Educates Delegates





# Decisions of Stockholm Convention 2017

- Listed **DecaBDE** in Annex A for global elimination with no recycling exemption. Exemptions for automotive and aerospace industry; certain textiles.
- Listed **SCCPs** in Annex A for global elimination with time-limited 5-year exemptions for certain industrial uses.
- Listed **HCBD** in Annex C to address unintentional production

For more information, see **IPEN Guide to New POPs and other resources** at [www.ipen.org](http://www.ipen.org)

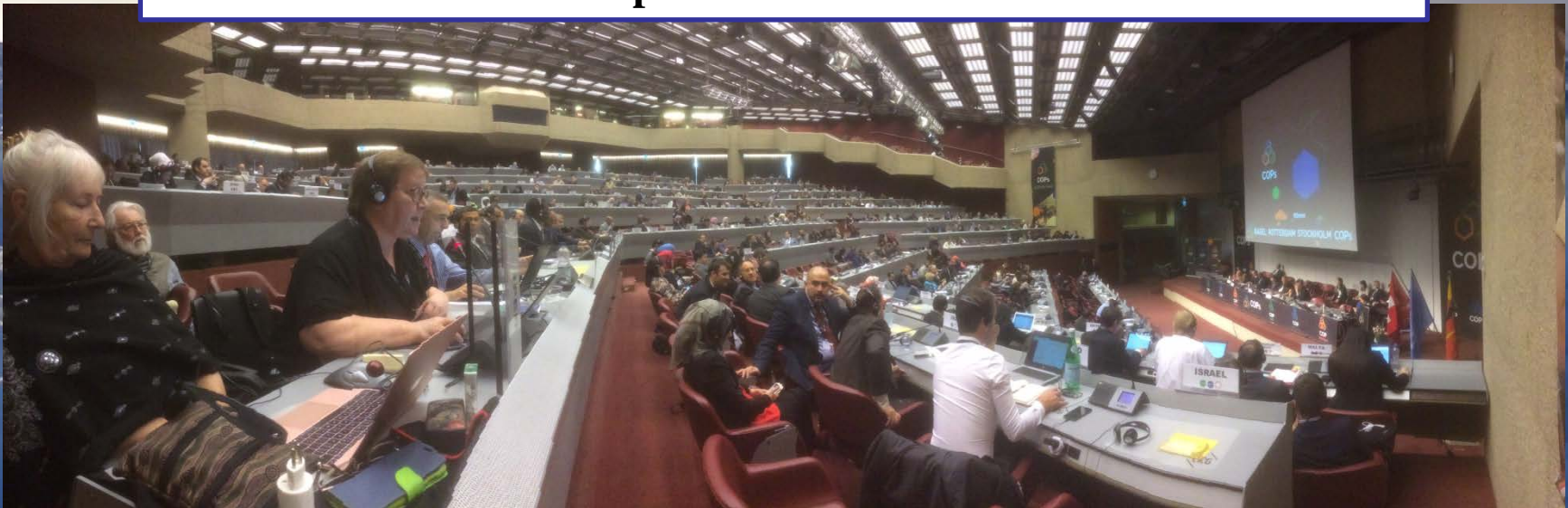
# Decisions of the Rotterdam Convention

- Listed carbofuran, trichlorfon, SCCPs, and tributyl tin (TBT)—making them subject to the prior informed consent process
- Failed to list paraquat, chrysotile asbestos, fenthion, and carbosulfan—blocked by small number of countries





**IPEN—Working for a Toxics-Free Future:  
A Network of Environmental Health, Justice, and Human Rights  
Groups from 100 countries**



# **Indigenous Women's Caucus at the Stockholm Convention on Persistent Organic Pollutants**

**Vi Waghiyi**

**Environmental Health and Justice Program Director**

**Tribal Member, Native Village of Savoonga**

[vi@akaction.org](mailto:vi@akaction.org)







Leigh Takak, Carol Nagaruk, Erika Apatiki, and Vi Waghiyi with Inuit statue of mother and child



# Testimony to the Stockholm Convention Conference of the Parties



Left—Carol Nagaruk, Inupiaq,  
Native Village of Elim; Above—Tai  
Pelli, representing the International  
Indian Treaty Council, and from the  
Island of Borikén (aka Puerto Rico)



# Action to prevent “recycling” of toxic flame retardant chemicals into household products









# Global Indigenous Caucus Participation in the Stockholm Convention





# Indigenous Delegation to the Stockholm Convention Conference of Parties – Geneva

